



**CITY OF CLINTON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
TUESDAY JUNE 3, 2014 – 7:00 P. M.
MUNICIPAL COURTROOM – 305 MONROE STREET**

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER Mayor Phil Fisher

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The invocation was led by Alderman Cashion followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Alderman Brabham.

ROLL CALL City Clerk, Russell Wall

Present: Jehu Brabham – Alderman-at-Large
 David Ellis – Alderman Ward 1
 Jim Martin – Alderman Ward 2
 William O Barnett – Alderman Ward 3
 Jan Cossitt – Alderwoman Ward 5
 Mike Cashion – Alderman Ward 6

Absent: Greg Cronin – Alderman Ward 4

RECOGNITIONS

Alderman Barnett thanked the Mayor, Board of Aldermen, and city staff for their well wishes for his son that had recently suffered a stroke. He also thanked everyone for their support and prayers for the recent death of his sister-in-law.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS A - P

MOTION made by Alderman Ellis and **SECONDED** by Alderwoman Cossitt to approve the Consent Agenda Items A-P. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



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DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Mike Warren, Police Chief reported to the board the statistics for calls for service, traffic stops, number of tickets written, and number of arrests for the period May 12, 2014 through May 25, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013. He also informed the board that the Police Department had won the recent cook-off between his department and the Fire Department held on Tuesday afternoon June 3, 2014. Other updates included the retirement of G Y Craft after 30 years of service and an update on an identity theft investigation.

Barry Burnside, Fire Chief reported the statistics on the number of service calls including medical and fire calls for the period May 19, 2014 through June 2, 2014 as compared to the same period in 2013. He also updated the board on the progress of the ongoing hiring process for new firefighters, the recent tests of the City's weather sirens, and the CPR challenge event held at the local Kroger grocery store.

Mike Parker, Director of the Public Works Department reported to the board statistics related to new water customers and total work orders for the month with the number of open work orders. He also informed the board that the limb truck had finally been repaired and was placed back in service and that he has hired a new mechanic.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

There were no items from the Board of Aldermen.



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MAYOR'S DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

UNKEMPT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1012 NORTHSIDE DRIVE

Upon presentation by Roy Edwards, Director of Community Development, **MOTION** made by Alderman Brabham and **SECONDED** by Alderman Cashion the board approved a resolution determining the necessity for cleaning the property located at 1012 Northside Drive, under the authority granted to municipalities by Section 21-19-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended and other applicable statutes and ordinances. A public hearing was held but no one representing the property owners was present and there was no public comment. The resolution is on file with the City Clerk. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

APPROVE A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MISSISSIPPI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE 2014 VOTING DELEGATES FOR THE CITY OF CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI

Upon presentation by Phil Fisher, Mayor, **MOTION** made by Alderman Ellis and **SECONDED** by Alderwoman Cossitt the board approved a resolution appointing Mississippi Municipal League 2014 voting delegates for the City of Clinton, Mississippi. The resolution is on file with the City Clerk. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A MOWER ATTACHMENT AT STATE CONTRACT PRICE, WHICH WAS BUDGETED IN THE 2013 – 2014 BUDGET

Upon presentation by Mike Parker, Director of Public Works, **MOTION** made by Alderman Cashion and **SECONDED** by Alderwoman Cossitt the board approved the purchase of a mower attachment at state contract price, which was budgeted in the 2013 – 2014 budget. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



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APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A TRACTOR AT STATE CONTRACT PRICE, WHICH WAS BUDGETED IN THE 2013 – 2014 BUDGET

Upon presentation by Mike Parker, Director of Public Works, **MOTION** made by Alderman Cashion and **SECONDED** by Alderwoman Cossitt the board approved the purchase of a tractor at state contract price, which was budgeted in the 2013 – 2014 budget. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

APPROVAL TO PURCHASE ONE PICK-UP AT STATE CONTRACT PRICE, WHICH WAS BUDGETED IN THE 2013 – 2014 BUDGET

Upon presentation by Mike Parker, Director of Public Works, **MOTION** made by Alderman Barnett and **SECONDED** by Alderwoman Cossitt the board approved the purchase of one pick-up at state contract price, which was budgeted in the 2013 – 2014 budget. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

OTHER BUSINESS

Alderman Ellis read into the record a letter addressed to the Mayor and Board re: Financial Health of the City of Clinton. After Alderman Ellis concluded, Mayor Fisher asked for comments from the Board.

Alderman Brabham expressed his opinion that the Aldermen should not be instructing the Mayor in how to handle budget matters. He thought this type of matter should be discussed in an open meeting work session so that all could offer opinions, suggestions and reach a conclusion shared by all for the best interest of the City. Budget matters should be discussed with all concerned including the Mayor, Board and Department Heads.

Alderman Barnett agreed with Alderman Brabham's comments and thought that Alderman Ellis's comments were improper and impractical.

Alderwoman Cossitt stated that she believed that everything stated by Alderman Ellis was already being used by the Mayor and Board.



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Alderman Cashion stated that previous Boards and this current Board had always acted with due diligence in financial and budget matters. While there was merit to some of Alderman Ellis's comments, the method he used to make the comments should have been handled in a better matter.

Mayor Fisher directed the City Clerk to include the letter in the Minutes (See attachment to minutes) and then commented on Alderman Ellis's letter. The Mayor explained how the budget process has been conducted in the present Administration since July 1, 2013, including the full disclosure to the Board and the public. The Mayor and City Clerk were already gathering the financial information and projections to provide to the Board for the upcoming budget planning sessions. The Mayor explained that for the Fiscal Year 2014 budget the Department Heads provided to the Board 1, 4, & 10 year plans and the Mayor had instructed the Department Heads to refer to these plans when preparing their department budgets for Fiscal Year 2015. Last Year the Mayor and Board could not take action prior to being sworn in on July 1, 2013. All available information regarding financial matters would be provided to the Board so that the next fiscal year's budget could be planned with the best available information.

The Mayor explained why a 10 year budget projection was of little value since national and international events beyond the control of Clinton's elected officials impacted any long-term planning. He cited the events of the Bush I administration, the ever-changing status of the national debt, the events of 9/11 and international terrorism, the collapse of the national housing market, the current record-setting national deficit and a number of other issues which make a plan for the next 10 years of little value.

The City is in essence already doing the things covered in the Ellis letter. The Mayor stated that if Alderman Ellis had simply talked with the Mayor, Alderman Ellis would know what was being done in the areas of budget and finance. There has been no neglect of the public interest. These matters should have been talked through prior to putting out a letter that does not accurately reflect the City's procedures. Everyone is always working diligently on these matters. The future cannot be anticipated. Even if the City could plan for the next 10 years that ignores that a new administration, even if composed of the same officials, replaces the present administration every 4 years.



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ADJOURN 7:55 P.M.

MOTION made by Alderwoman Cossitt and SECONDED by Alderman Brabham to adjourn until the next regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to be held June 17, 2014 at 7:00 p. m. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVED: *Philip R. Fisher*
Philip R. Fisher, Mayor

6-11-14
Date

ATTEST: *Russell L. Wall*
Russell L. Wall, City Clerk

6-11-14
Date

